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Can the circadian system of a diurnal and a nocturnal rodent entrain to ultraviolet light?

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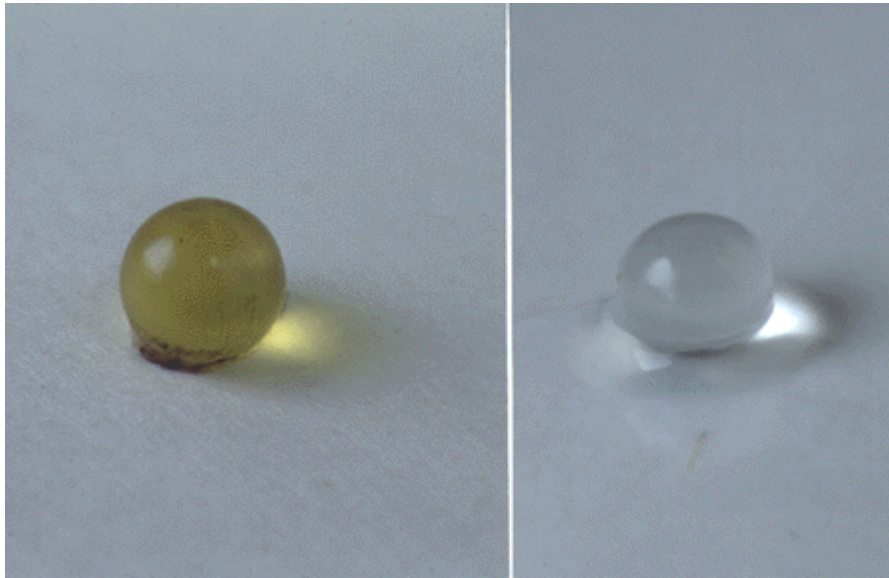


Fig. 1

The left panel shows the yellow colour of the eye lens of the European ground squirrel (diameter 5.0 mm) indicating the strong absorption at lower wavelengths, including UV light and extending into the blue band of the human visible spectrum. The right panel shows the colourless appearance of the hamster lens (diameter 4 mm) which does transmit UV light. The transmittance spectra for both types of lenses are plotted in Fig. 5 of the manuscript.



Fig. 2

Typical upright position of the European ground squirrel. The visual system of the European ground squirrel is well adapted for use during daytime and plays an important role in predator recognition (see discussion section of the manuscript).